

New Metal Sign at St. Angela Hall



Bright Blue Signs Show Streets and Buildings

NEW LOOK FOR BROOKLYN CAMPUS

Metallic Signs Mark Campus Boundaries and Buildings

By Janine Farraj

Call it a facelift, call it a makeover, call it anything you please—but whatever you call it, what is apparent is that the campus of St. Joseph's College has a new look.

Perhaps it is a sign of the times, but all the buildings on campus now have new signs. Two-tone metallic signs in black and gold now stand before each building or hang from the facades.

In addition, bright blue and white directional signs are prominently placed throughout the campus which both show the locations of the various campus buildings, but also identify the streets upon which these buildings are found.

According to college President Sister Elizabeth A. Hill, the project to revamp the signs on campus has been an ongoing effort that has taken almost two years to complete.

One of the problems with changing the signs is that St. Joseph's College is located in a Landmarks District of New York City and therefore, prior approval had to be received by the New York City Landmarks Commission.

Sister Elizabeth notes that this required several presentations before the Commission in order to secure their approval before any changes could be made.

There were several reasons motivating the change in signs on campus. Firstly, the college felt a need to identify the campus to both neighbors and visitors.

Secondly, since the purchase of St. Angela Hall, the school has spread over four blocks and there was some confusion about where the college grounds actually began and ended.

Most prominent in the renaming of campus buildings is the main building which is popularly known as 245—but whose official name is Sr. Vincent Therese Hall. The building is now officially known as Tuohy Hall since Sister Vincent's family name was Tuohy.

This also provided a measure of uniformity among the names of the buildings on campus in that each building now has a name.

The 256 building is now officially St. Joseph's Hall. It derives its name from the statue of St. Joseph on the facade of the building.

The 232 convent is now officially Founder's Hall and Burns Hall is named for Sister Mary Florence Burns, who recently retired after serving more than 30 years as the Academic Vice President of the college.

The changes and design of the new signs was a collaborative effort between the administration and the

architectural firm of HHPA to make sure that the signs were aesthetically appropriate for the ambience of the college.

Reactions to the new signs were varied. One college employee who requested anonymity said, "First of all, they're probably too expensive. The one here at Tuohy Hall is ridiculous because you have to tilt your head to see it. But the colors are all right because they are modern."

On the other hand, sophomore Stephen Klein said, "I like the new signs. It makes the school look lively and modern."

Also pleased with the new signs was Amanda Young who said, "They are more informative and it is easy for outsiders to know what is going on and where things are. I have no complaints."

So it's a contemporary dress-up for St. Joseph's and an indication that the administration of the school is constantly looking for new ways to improve life cosmetically as well as academically on campus.

"On the whole, I think the new signs and banners will be a great addition to the campus. I think they will add color, they will help people navigate from building to building, and they will identify the campus to the public," said Sister Elizabeth.

FASHION CLUB STRESSES DRESSING FOR SUCCESS

By Brandon Graham

It's the morning of your crucial job interview and you stare blankly at your closet, wondering what to wear. Cut-offs? Cocktail dress? Designer jeans? Three piece Armani?

Decisions such as this can alter a Personnel Manager's perception of a prospective employee, so getting it right is not an option—it is a necessity.

To aid students in making the right impression, a new club began at St. Joseph's for the fall term: the Dress for Success Club.

The club was begun by junior transfer student Euphemia Blance Misori. "Everyone has a need for fashion and our club points out the right way to choose and wear clothes," she said.

Realizing that a large component of hiring can be the first impression that one makes upon a boss, Euphemia points out that, "The first impression you make comes from your dress, and people treat you in a certain way based upon your appearance. This club

will help students learn what is appropriate to wear in all facets of their lives and careers."

The first major event organized by the Dress for Success Fashion Club is a Winter Fashion Show scheduled for December 9, 2004. The show will feature fashions by local designers and boutiques.

There was a suggested donation at the door, with all proceeds benefitting HOPE Worldwide (www.hopeworldwide.com) which is an organization that helps those stricken by poverty and AIDS worldwide.

"The club is a good way to raise money for the AIDS crisis," said club member Anne-Keny Dubuisson.

The moderator of the club is Michael Learmond. In accepting the role of Moderator, he said, "I have experience with fashion having modeled in college and many students think about the Fashion Industry and may want to go into it."

In agreement with the goals of the club, Mr. Learmond also noted, "Fashion makes a statement. It has

an impact on your life and it's part of your identity. I dress for me. Fashion represents my tastes and interests."

The club will bring students together, foster leadership abilities and courage, and bring out individual student's characters through helping to run, organize, and model in upcoming fashion shows.

Club member Rosalia Buttitta, a junior Child Study Major, said of the club that she hopes to get "good tips on fashion in business and how to present myself as a teacher."

Later in the year the club will be hosting a Spring Fashion show tentatively scheduled for the month of February. This show will also display fashions by local designers and highlight the various cultures represented on the SJC campus. It will also raise money for organizations that help the less fortunate peoples of the world.

For more information about the Dress for Success Club, contact club president Euphemia Misori at sjcfashionclub@yahoo.com.

BAGELS AND BOOKS AND THE JOY OF READING

By Christina Ament

Though the phrase "Reading is Fundamental" was originally coined as a way of appealing to younger readers and to get them into the habit of reading, the adage is equally true of modern college students.

In a society that gleefully proclaims that "Print is Dead," the idea of reading books not only for school but for fun, might seem anachronistic, a notion that should have been buried with "Ozzie and Harriet" and "The Donna Reed Show."

But on the St. Joseph's College campus, at least one group has taken the idea of reading for fun and applied it to a club: Bagels and Books.

For two years now, Bagels and Books has met on a monthly basis to have lunch together and discuss books! Not for academic credit, not because it is an assignment—but because reading good literature and talking about it with friends and colleagues can be a fun experience.

Bagels and Books is the brainchild of Dr. Sydelle Brooks who also is the Director of the ACES program at St. Joseph's.

The group meets in Room 205

of St. Angela Hall during common hour for a stimulating discussion of a work of literature that has been chosen by members of the discussion group.

The first selection of the year was *The Life of Pi* and the second book which was discussed at the November meeting was Ford Madox Ford's *The Good Soldier*.

Each member submits titles for consideration and then through consensus, a title is selected. Members are responsible for obtaining the book on their own and reading it in the month's period between meetings.

Currently, there are approximately fifteen members of Bagels and Books—two of whom are students.

Dr. Brooks would like to see student involvement in the group increased so that more young people could share in the joy of reading a good book.

"The objective of our group is to get people reading critically and develop a love of fiction. It's all about reading for enjoyment," said Dr. Brooks, "and everyone is invited to join us," she added.

EDITORIALS

GIVING: IT'S GOOD FOR THE SOUL!

There are hard jobs and there are hard jobs—but the holiday season produces one of the hardest of them all—being a Sidewalk Santa. Think about it: you stand outdoors for a six hour shift shaking a bell in weather that would paralyze a seal, and if you're lucky, every now and again someone might drop a coin into your collection kettle. Rarer still, someone might even drop a single (or dare we imagine?)—a five dollar bill. Yes, it's tough doing good deeds during the holiday season—or any other time of the year, for that matter.

And by the way—those Sidewalk Santas? They are all volunteers. Those Salvation Army musicians who play Christmas carols on city corners? That's part of their faith: to serve others and ignore personal discomfort.

Honesty check: How many of you have (more times than not) walked right by these collectors for the poor and not dropped in a coin? Or, how many of you have even thought, "what idiots!" "Why do they do this?" We won't probe your conscience; only you know the truth.

But here's the important thing: This Christmas, when most of us are safely gathered in the warmth of our homes with family and friends, presents heaped beneath a beautiful tree and a veritable feast cooking in the oven, do we even bother to think of those who are less fortunate? Do we ever wonder what *they* are doing on this most special of days—or do they remain some vague and nebulous *they* who we don't particularly *want* to think about?

Americans are without question the most generous people on Earth. It is in our national character—even to nations that aren't particularly friendly towards us. An earthquake strikes, a volcano erupts, a flood occurs—and our aid planes are off the runways in a matter of hours.

But this is not about national character. This is about *individual* character. This is about establishing early in life (if it's not too late already) a tradition of giving to others—or, to cite a phrase, *doing unto others*—or *for* others.

Similarly, St. Joseph's is a generous school. Blood drives, reaching out to the kids at St. Jude's hospital and a host of other philanthropic activities are a regular part of the school's calendar. But again, this is about individuals, not institutions.

Yes, it's a cliche to note that if everyone just gave a quarter to Sidewalk Santas—look at the good it could do. Firstly, everyone *won't* give. In fact, *most* people won't. But it doesn't diminish the truth of the statement just because it's been used so many times in the past. Secondly, consider what that quarter or nickel or dime means. To us, not much. You can barely buy a pack of gum with it, and a can of soda is way beyond its buying power. But as long as we are hauling out cliches, here's one from Benjamin Franklin in *Poor Richard's Almanac*: save the nickels and the dollars will come.

Perhaps everyone should be forced to read Charles Dickens during the holiday season. Now there was a man who knew the meaning of Christmas. More importantly, there was a man who knew the meaning of abject poverty and its oppressive effect upon a people.

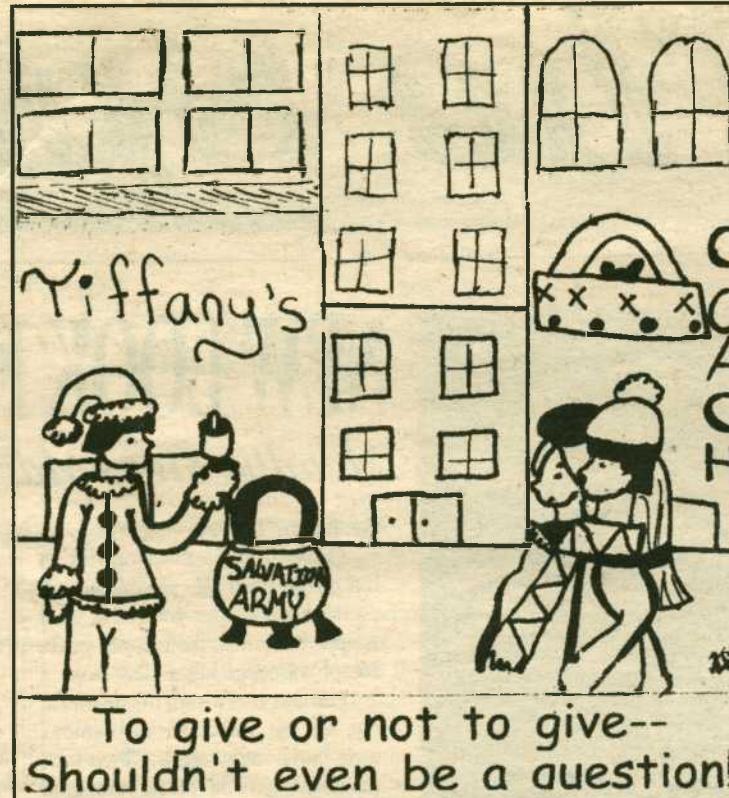
That poverty, that need, that want—it thrives in our city, even in our nation, and of course, it is a global problem as well. We can't solve all of the world's problems, no matter how many nickels or dimes we throw into a collection kettle. But we can make a start. We can feed one family, possibly two. Maybe a dozen. And if enough of us manifest that individual generosity that lives in each one of our hearts—well, who knows what we can accomplish.

It's the holiday season, friends. Don't forget what that means. Don't hesitate to reach out to others—and the next time you see a Sidewalk Santa, wish him a Merry Christmas. He'd love to hear from you. And as Dickens put into the mouth of a lovely, yet handicapped little boy, "God Bless us Everyone."

Some Thoughts on the First Edition

The editorial staff, reporters and columnists of *The Spirit* would like to thank the many students and staff members who made such kind comments about the first edition of the paper. We have heard your suggestions, criticisms and praise and are committed to improving *The Spirit* by adding more features—features that you, our readers, have requested. Your continued support and input are invaluable to us—so thank you again!

Even as you read this, the staff is preparing the *third* edition of *The Spirit* and we hope to have it ready for you upon your return for the Spring semester. There's still room on our staff—so if you would like to join us—you are always welcome!



THE SPIRIT
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The spirit encourages letters to the editor concerning editorials, articles, and policy. Letters can be left in Dr. Weiner's mailbox.
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Talking Points

By Christina Contessa

Had Enough of 'Reality' Television Yet?

Ah television! The tube, the idiot box—the great wasteland! Most Americans watch television on a daily basis.

In fact, as of March 31, 2004, recent studies say that worldwide, people spend fifteen minutes or more sitting on the couch watching their favorite show.

In North America, we spend 4 hours and 21 minutes a day on average watching TV!

It feels as if every two to three weeks, there are a bunch of new TV shows that come out while other shows are on hiatus, or they are used as fillers.

As a result, we have been bombarded with shows that claim that they are "Reality TV."

That same March 2004 study notes that the ratings for these reality shows have increased. From "Survivor" to the recent "The Biggest Loser" to "My Big Fat Obnoxious Boss," these shows have come to show people in a light that we do not see them in every day.

Short of "Choose Your Own Embalmer," it feels as if every 'reality' situation has been covered on television. Is it possible we are ready to bid farewell to this misbegotten genre?

Ever since "The Real World" made its debut on MTV in the early '90s, producers have been trying to come up with a new

show that shocks and pushes people to the limit.

For those of you who never saw "The Real World," it involved putting seven strangers in a house in a major city either in the United States or in a foreign country to live and work together.

The show has been to Los Angeles, New York, France, Las Vegas, Seattle, and Hawaii to name but a few locales.

The producers wanted to see how well people would work together so they put odd mixes of individuals who usually would not work together well in the house for six months.

After "The Real World" appeared, the producers wanted to have the same thing happen under different circumstances, so they created a show called "Road Rules."

Call it what you want, but those shows started a trend that most people never saw coming.

Today there are numerous shows from "Who Wants to Marry my Dad," a show that takes a widowed man and his family to make the decision about who he is going to now marry, to the now critically acclaimed Donald Trump show, "The Apprentice," which is about fifteen contestants cutting each others' throats to secure a prized spot in the Trump corporation.

These shows clearly show us that the morals that we were

taught—"The right person is out there for you," and "Work hard for your own money," do not exist anymore.

These shows merely give us another reason to sit before the television and in some cases, apply to be contestants so that we too can win money, or the 'respect' that we 'deserve.'

Whatever happened to sitcoms? I can remember Friday nights when I was a child and all I used to watch was TGIF with family like sit-coms such as "Full House," "Step by Step," "Family Matters," and "Home Improvement."

Many of us watched shows from "Frasier" to "Sex in the City," to "Friends"—all of which went off the air last season.

As of January, we will witness the demise of "NYPD Blue." These dramas and sit-coms have been with us for many years, and you have to wonder if they are the last of a dying breed.

I think it's time to bring back laughter to television. There is enough 'reality' in our lives every day to fill us up.

Besides, some good old-fashioned laughter has to be better than watching someone eat slugs or stick their hands into a tank full of tarantulas—or even watching as someone gets voted off the island.

Ya think?

Happy Holidays
from
The Editors and Staff of The Spirit!

College Taps New Director for Dillon Center

Professor Susan Straut-Collard Named to Head Program

By Janine Farraj

Upon the retirement of Sister Helen Kearney as the Director of the Dillon Child Study Center, Susan Straut Collard, Ph.D., was named as her successor.

July 1, 2004 saw Dr. Collard elevated to the directorship of one of the key fixtures on the St. Joseph's Brooklyn campus.

In many ways, Sister Helen Kearney was responsible for the success of the Dillon Center—a private school on campus attended by over 80 children.

There are three different age levels for the classes: three-year-olds, four-year-olds, and five-year-olds.

Student teachers from St. Joseph's have the opportunity to do their training right on campus with these children.

Sister Helen Kearney also oversaw the evolution of inclusive classrooms at the center.

Dr. Collard has been a dedicated member of the faculty of St. Joseph's and has helped create the underlying foundation for the strength of the Child Study Department.

She has been at St. Joseph's since 1988 and has also served as the Chairperson of the Child Study Program—a role that she will continue to fill.

"I feel fortunate to have had her as a professor," said senior Child Study major Melissa Quercia. "We have learned so much from her classes and all the hard work and time really paid off. I wish her luck with her additional position," she added.

Dr. Collard earned her Bachelor's Degree at Drew University in Behavioral Science. This was followed by a Master's Degree in Special Education at Columbia Teacher's College, and her academic career culminated in the earning of her Ph.D. from Columbia University in Educational Administration.

Her journey at St. Joseph's has been a long and varied one. After years of teaching emotionally disturbed children in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, she applied for an adjunct position at St. Joseph's and unexpectedly, received a full-time position.

"I was teaching in the classroom for several years and truly loved it. When I took a chance at applying for a part-time job here, I was so fortunate to find out that I had received a full-time position," said Dr. Collard.

It did not take long for her to become a vital and dynamic part of the faculty. She helped develop a new curriculum with many faculty members from the Child Study Department.

They all worked together in creating a dual certification program in Special Education and General Education which allows Child Study majors to graduate with four certificates.

Upon graduation, Child Study majors will be certified in both fields from birth to 6th grade. The faculty of the Child Study Department

feels that "students are now four times as marketable and knowledgeable in their field."

One of the strong points of the Child Study Department comes from the students' experiences at the Dillon Center. At the center, students gain hands-on experiences with the young students as early as their freshman year in college.

"The Dillon is a jewel for the college and for all students and children involved in this unique establishment," says Dr. Collard with evident pride.

She also gives credit to the St. Joseph's students who come to work at the center. "The Child Study majors make such a difference in the success of Dillon. The children enjoy their company and help and I would like to see the Child Study majors continue working here with our children."

Dr. Collard looks forward to continuing the traditions of excellence established by Sister Helen at the Dillon Center, but she would also like to expand and develop future programs.

She would like to see Dillon grow in grades and size and she would also like to gain more publicity for the program to attract additional students to St. Joseph's.

"It's been a wonderful and challenging experience handling both operations in Dillon and the Child Study Department, but I enjoy every minute of it," said Dr. Collard of her dual positions at the college.



New Dillon Center Director Dr. Susan Straut-Collard



Fashion Watch

By Euphemia Miscri

AVOIDING HOLIDAY SHOPPING BLUES

Christmas, Christmas Christmas—a time for happiness, new beginnings, reconciliations, family gatherings and food, just to name but a few things associated with the holiday.

But for some, buying gifts can make Christmas a very stressful time, so I am here to give you a few tips on how to make your Christmas holiday even more fun.

Though some really enjoy last-minute shopping, I recommend that you start early to avoid adding more stress to your life.

Shop in off-peak hours, especially during the morning or at night, in order to avoid long lines and rowdy shoppers.

Make a shopping list and include in it all the names of the recipients and some suggestions for the gifts you intend to purchase. Take that checklist with you! Tick off each item as you buy it.

Set a budget that takes into consideration the money you have in your hand. Try to buy only affordable gifts, which will make it much easier to pay off your holiday credit card debt.

Watch store ads and be on the lookout for holiday sales. You might save a pretty good chunk of money because almost anything you may want to buy eventually goes on sale.

Purchase a couple of extra gifts and wrap them up. Put a sticky pad on the box stating what

it is. This way you can prepare for someone who unexpectedly gives you a gift and you can save yourself the embarrassment of not being able to reciprocate.

Save those shopping receipts in case you have broken items, wrong sizes or duplicate gifts which you may want to return or exchange for something else.

Why not reward yourself to a special lunch or buy a small token for a job well-done? Christmas shopping isn't that bad if you acknowledge your accomplishment and reward yourself with something inexpensive and fun.

Now, if you are looking for some nice styles as Christmas gifts or some reasonably priced ones,

consider doing some shopping at the following places.

- www.Carabella.com
- www.hot&trendy.com
- Hotti-hotti (Jamaica Ave)
- Target
- Century 21
- VIM
- Forever 21
- Knock Out
- De Jenero

There are plenty of values out there if you leave yourself enough time to look and shop.

Finally—and don't forget this one, be cheerful! Try to remain in the holiday spirit whether you receive a gift or not. After all, they say it's better to give than to receive—especially during the holidays!

Chapel Players Shine in Fall Production

By Mike Multari

As the Bard said, "The Players have arrived"—with not one, but six plays to perform—all one-actors in a suite called *All in the Timing* by David Ives.

The six one-act plays were bound together by the very strong theme of time, hence the title of the show.

The comic acts ranged in subject from a bell that could ring until one was speaking to their 'perfect person,' to a play about a language that would serve to unite the entire universe.

The Chapel Players, St. Joseph's resident acting society, is moderated by Ms. Jaime Vacca of the Office of Student Services, and the production was directed by Mr. Thomas Hoechner.

"The show was funny and the sing-along to 'La Bamba' at the end of the play was a nice touch," said freshman John Costaldo.

For the performers themselves, any production is a learning experience and an exercise in team spirit and respect for each other's abilities.

"It's fun working with people you can relate better with, but it can also cause people to butt heads a

little," said senior Katy Parker. "We really have lots of fun putting on productions with the Chapel Players, otherwise, I guess I wouldn't do them," she added.

The group will be holding a student workshop called "Chapel Players Steal Christmas," on December 1st at 7:30 PM. In the auditorium of Tuohy Hall.

"In high school, I never got to



Chris Barnes, Christina Traverson and Jennifer Ciago



CAB at Baltimore Conference with Patchogue CAB

THE GAMESMAN

by Robert Marriello

A GAME FOR THE NEW CENTURY

Early in the 21st century, the video game "Halo: Combat Evolved" was released in the X-Box format. Unexpectedly, the game developed a following amongst gamers that has been rivaled by few others.

"Halo," which has the simple premise of saving humanity from a race of aliens known only as "the Covenant," has brought about things which only games of the highest regard can hope to achieve.

"Halo," offers a multitude of game play, from the campaign mode where you can play as the main character known only as "Master Chief," or the multi-player game where you and three friends can play on one X-Box, or play with as many friends as you can connect through ethernet cables.

These styles of play have spawned many things such as the website redvsblue.com, where through the art of machinima, or using video games to make movies, team play by multi-player Halo is recorded and turned into entertaining short movies about what happens to the teams during their battles against each other.

Also, novels based upon the adventures of Master Chief during

his fight against the Covenant have been written.

Another item that has been made because of the game is a suit that looks like the armor that Master Chief dons, accurate down to the detail of the lights on the helmet and the make of the suit.

These suits won't, however, be available in too many places with their 4-digit price range.

The most popular thing to come from the game "Halo" is "Halo 2." After almost two years of development and waiting, fans will finally be rewarded for their patience with a new game.

There are several changes from the original game that will appear in the new one. In the original, you could only have one pistol, but in the new game, you now get two pistols to wield at the same time.

The multi-player mode has been updated as well, allowing you to see the status of your teammates, so if they are getting destroyed, you will know about it and can replan.

"Halo" is one of the most popular games for the X-Box and that is the reason that I have it. The release date of November 21, 2004 will be a very special one for fans of the game—and I proudly include myself in that number.

SJC Offers Free E-Mail Accounts

By Janine Farraj

As a service to all registered St. Joseph's students, web-based e-mail accounts are available at no charge. These accounts may be accessed from any computer having an internet connection.

To reach the e-mail account, a student will have to utilize the following web address: <http://student.sjcnv.edu>.

The login name for a student will be his or her initials and the last four digits of the social security account number followed by @student.sjcnv.edu. A temporary password for the purposes of logging in will be the last four digits of the social

security account number.

However, once the account is set up, students are requested to change their password so that it includes a combination of at least six letters and numbers.

"I think that these e-mail accounts are just another example of how the college really wants to provide services for its students. It's a terrific idea," said senior Josephine DiSalvo.

Because webmail is case sensitive, it will be necessary to enter passwords without having the cap locks feature of the keyboard on.

It is recommended that passwords contain all lower case letters.

Campus Activity Board Maps Out Year's Events

Group Targets Diversity, Entertainment and Interest in Activities

By Christina Contessa

They work in relative obscurity, but their function on campus is a vital one. The Campus Activities Board is that branch of Student Government that is responsible for the myriad of activities that occur at St. Joseph's College.

The Chairperson of the CAB is Laurie Hartwig, with Christopher Burke serving as Assistant Chairperson, Natalie Fascianella as the Financial Coordinator, and Diana Harvey as the Publicity Coordinator.

The members of the CAB are elected to their offices and they serve a one year term.

CAB meetings are held on a regular and *ad hoc* basis, with the entire board coming in over the summer vacation to help plan events for the fall semester.

The funding for the activities planned and sponsored by the CAB comes largely from the budget of the Office of Student Services, administered by Sherrie Van Arnam.

Currently, the budget for CAB is in excess of \$9000 for the school year. The students are chiefly responsible for allocating these funds for the wide variety of activities that they plan.

"As the Financial Coordinator," said Natalie Fascianella, "I take care of the budget and make sure that we do not go over the

limit for any given activity. I also am involved in the general planning of activities as part of the student government itself," she added.

Some of the events the CAB sponsored during the fall term included the trip to see *Brooklyn: The Musical*, the trip to Fright Fest at Six Flags Great Adventure, college night at a Met game, the Halloween Bash and the concert by Marcoux Corner held in October.

CAB is also sponsoring the Christmas Festival scheduled for December.

"As the Assistant Chairperson, I mainly plan off-campus activities such as Broadway shows and the

trip to Great Adventure. I also help with making sure that all activities we plan run smoothly," said Christopher Burke.

Members of the CAB also travel to meet with similar student government bodies from other schools. For example, on October 17th, the group traveled to Baltimore, Maryland for the National Association for Campus Activities Conference.

At this conference, held at the Convention Center near Baltimore Harbor, CAB members learned what other schools bring to their

campuses by way of activities and events.

The conference featured workshops on leadership, self-reflection, planning and promoting events, and teamwork as the key to a successful activities program.

Student Service Director Sherrie Van Arnam and her Assistant Director, Jaime Vacca accompanied the students to the conference.

"I think that the CAB does a terrific job," said senior Josephine DiSalvo. "Considering the size of our campus and our small student population, there is always something going on here and they are the ones who make these things happen," she added.

The rewards of the job are often intangible, but satisfying to the members of the board.

"I enjoy having a say in what will happen on the St. Joseph's campus" said Ms. Fascianella, "and when activities are popular and go well, this is sufficient reward for me."

For anyone with suggestions about future activities, or comments on ones that have already been held, the door to Room 101 is always open and the members of the board are eager to meet with students to hear their ideas.

Midday Madness Energizes Teams and Crowd

By Christina Ament

A pep rally? At St. Joe's? And why not! It happens every year, or at least it has for the last eight years running.

This year's Midday Madness took place on November 10, 2004 in the gymnasium of Tuohy Hall and it was attended by over 150 students who had come to be a part of the festivities and show support for St. Joseph's teams.

Three teams were featured at the pep rally: Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball and the Dance Team who provide entertainment and spirit at home games.

Midday Madness was a whirlwind of activity, with something seemingly going on in every corner of the gym.

On the court, the basketball teams showed their skills off to the audience in warmup drills and practice games.

The Dance Team performed "My Prerogative" by Britney Spears, and a Hip-Hop mix that they had previously performed at Radio City Music Hall this past September before a WNBA Liberty game.

While a DJ provided background music for the event, contests were held, raffles were drawn for prizes and free food and giveaways rounded out the activities for Midday Madness.

The purpose of the event was to

energize both the teams and the crowd for the commencement of the basketball seasons and promote support and school spirit.

"It was great," said freshman Ivan Nichols. "We were all enjoying ourselves and this was the high point of school spirit that I've seen since I've been here at St. Joe's" he added.

Frank P. Carbone, Sports Director and Women's Basketball coach was responsible for putting together Midday Madness. The idea comes from Division I schools, basically dorm schools, where

Midnight Madness is a regular part of campus activity.

Coach Carbone was assisted by some of the other team coaches in running the event.

"It was a nice event and a good team effort," said Coach Carbone.

Junior Kristin Healy noted that the significance of Midday Madness was that "It was a way to promote people to come to games. They get to see who is on the team and support them. It's a good way to start the season and it was fun."

Now that the Madness is over, let the games begin.



Basketball Team with Dance Team at Midday Madness

ACES Program Assists Foreign-Born Students

Initial Group Graduates in 2005

By Svetlana Medvedeva

During the last four years, there has been a marked growth in the ethnic and cultural diversity at St. Joseph's College.

Assimilating ethnically diverse students into American culture and helping them to master the English language can be a daunting prospect. For this reason, the ACES program was started at St. Joe's four years ago.

The acronym ACES stands for Academic Center for Enhancement Services. The program was started by Professor Sydelle Brooks who holds a B.A. and M.A. from Brooklyn College and a Ph.D. from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

Prior to her coming to St. Joseph's, Dr. Brooks was an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Brooklyn College. She then spent thirteen years at New York City Technical College where she was the Director of the Language Immersion Program and the Director of Adult Education programs.

The Assistant Director of the program is Michael Larson, known to all on campus as Mik, who holds an M.F.A. from the New School University.

The ACES program is open to students who have come to the United States within the last 8 years and who are conversant with the English language. They must have completed their ESL requirements in high school.

Moreover, ACES students must bring a strong level of motivation to the program; they also must have a strong foundation in

reading, but are in need of improving reading and comprehension skills.

The ACES program started slowly and is growing gradually. It grew from having six students the first year, eight the second year, nine the third, and this year, ten freshmen and a transfer student have entered the program.

Assistant Director Larson predicts that the program will expand further and that by next year, "the program will ideally have twelve students."

This year will be an important one for the ACES program because the Class of 2005 will represent their first graduating class.

Larson notes that of particular importance to the student who enters ACES is their motivation. In fact, he says that it might be the most important criteria "since students have to be motivated to learn better and more proper English."

Another advantage of the ACES program is the financial benefits a student can derive from being a part of it.

If a student is accepted to the program and is a permanent resident of the United States, they are eligible to receive as much as \$5000 per year for all four years of undergraduate study.

Factor into this other forms of financial aid that students can receive, and the bottom line reads as almost a tuition-free four years at St. Joseph's.

As an indication of the diversity that students encounter in the ACES program, there are currently students from China,

Albania, India, Haiti, Poland, Yemen, Ukraine, Russia as well as other nations.

"The wonderful part of the ACES program is that it creates greater diversity at the college," said Dr. Brooks.

Though there are no admissions tests required for entrance into the program, all freshmen must take an ACES class during their first year of college. After that, they are free to navigate the four year curriculum as befits them best.

Students in ACES receive help in written English any time they need it in a one-on-one setting with their instructor.

The reaction from the students in the ACES program has been universally positive. "When we have a problem with any subject," says Marzena Stadicka, a freshman originally from Poland, "we always receive the help we need. The program provides sufficient help for me in all of my classes, and because of all the writing and reading we do in the ACES class, my English has significantly improved."

Magda Wiecek, another freshman who originally hails from Poland, believes that all the work that she does in ACES "will improve my writing and my reading in the future, making other classes more understandable and less complicated."

She also emphasizes the patience and support of her teachers as a major factor behind her success in learning to speak and write English more proficiently.

The ACES office is located in St. Angela Hall, where more information on the program is available.



ACES Students Meet With Dr. Brooks and Mr. Larson



ARTSCAPE

BY ERIN DORSO

A NEW JAZZ STAR IS BORN!

You are standing in a music store perusing the new releases. You are tired of the same old music styles that have been revolving in your CD player for ages, and are hoping something different will catch your eye.

Then, you see it. The album cover itself is not particularly eye-popping, but somehow it intrigues you. You decide to take a risk and walk out with your purchase clutched in your hands.

You get home, wrestle with the demonically-created CD plastic security wrapper, and your ears are instantly tickled by the jazzy rhythm of a bass.

A sweet soulful voice joins in any from that moment on, you are hooked. Something about this woman's voice draws you in and takes you on a whirlwind journey into the world of jazz.

Jane Monheit has taken the jazz world by storm. She began singing at the age of two, but did not begin professional vocal training until she was 17. It was then that she moved from Long Island to New York City to study at the Manhattan School of Music.

She recorded her first album, *Never Neverland*, at the age of 22. At the age of 27, she has recorded four albums and more than proven herself in the music industry.

Taking a Chance on Love is Monheit's fourth endeavor and covers a broad spectrum of moods.

"Honeysuckle Rose," the album's first track, grabs you because of the upbeat Fats Waller melody. This is followed by the Cole Porter standard, "In the Still of the Night," which was one of Frank Sinatra's signature tunes.

"Taking a Chance on Love," another jazz standard, varies the mood of the Porter classic with another upbeat turn for Monheit.

My personal favorite on the album is a song entitled "Bill," a Jerome Kern standard. It is very sentimental and is about a woman's true love for a man who turns out to be something other than what she expected.

Monheit also tries her hand at the Yip Harburg classic, "Over the Rainbow," which of course, Judy Garland made her own. It's a more somber rendition of the song than listeners might remember, but I think it is just as effective as Judy Garland's version that was heard in *The Wizard of Oz*.

I found myself filled with a yearning to be in a place I belonged, a place where there are no worries or troubles.

Tad Hendrickson of Amazon.com writes of Jane Monheit that she is "a traditional stylist who expertly mines American standards by balancing pop's accessible sensibility and jazz's rich complexity."

I couldn't agree more. Get the CD and you will hear what I mean.



Dance Club Members Perform a Number in "Angles"

Dance Club Dazzles in Performance of "Angles"

By Michelle Graziano

Combine seven dancers, lights, music—and hours of rehearsal, and what do you get? Broadway? Not exactly, but you do get the St. Joseph's College Dance Club fall performance which was entitled "Fall Angles."

The performance was one of the many student activities that took place during International Week which occurred from November 15-19. It was held on Wednesday, November 17 during Common Hour (12:40-1:40 PM) and it was repeated on Thursday, November 18 at 7:30 PM.

"Fall Angles" was a varied program of dance styles including hip-hop, ballet, modern, lyrical and African. There were also solo pieces, pieces for large groups and small group pieces.

Some of the music accompanying the dancers included "Sisters Doing it for Themselves," by Eurythmics, "Butterflies," by Aleisha Keys, "Rumors," by Lindsay Lohan, and an excerpt from Johann Sebastian Bach's "Goldberg Variations."

The St. Joseph's Dance Club consists of seven members, various choreographers, and some special additional guests.

The members of the Dance Club choreographed many of their own performance pieces.

GraceMarie Varone, a dancer and choreographer, commented on the difficulty of her piece: "Was it difficult? Yes and no. Yes, because this is my first time choreographing and I have only been dancing two years, it is still very new to me. No because I received such helpful input from other members of the club which helped me improve my piece."

The club also brought in special guest choreographer Julian Thorn who composed two dances for the girls, "Sisters," and "Reflection of the Spirit."

The Lighting Designer and Stage Manager for the evening's performance was Susan Hamburger. The Sound Technician was Christina Traverson and other members of the Technical Crew

included Diana Scotto, Jessica Jones, and Katy Parker.

Ms. Jaime Vacca, Assistant to Director of Student Services Sherrie Van Arnam, choreographed and danced in a number entitled "Wish Granted," which used "A Friend Like Me" from *Aladdin* as its musical backdrop.

She said of her experience with the Dance Club, "It was a great success and the audience enjoyed it very much. Personally, I enjoyed the chance of performing with the students."

Summing up her experience with the Dance Club, member Willow

Figueroa said, "Everyone pulls together so well that the amount of unity in the club makes me a very proud member. This performance shows both are accomplishments and our energy."

As Ms. Varone said about the experience of performing in "Fall Angles," "It was unforgettable."

The next dance performance for the club will take place on Wednesday and Thursday, April 20th and 21st, 2005.

The Inquiring Photographer

What is your one single wish for Christmas?



My wish? To have unconvoluted and consistent objectives in attaining my most passionate goals.

—Danny Dahgestani, Junior



I wish I could be in Aruba and to travel around to see the most beautiful places in the world.

—Marzena Stadnicka, Freshman



My wish would be to stop war and find a peaceful solution to our differences.

—Steven Vasquez, Sophomore



I wish that all the troops would be taken out of Iraq and that terrorism would cease!

—Victoria Simon, Sophomore



My wish is to have my wedding paid for! I am getting married next December!

—Jaime Vacca, Student Services



I wish to rent a car with my closest friends and drive through the desert from sunrise to sunset for a few weeks enjoying the view.

—Magdalena Wiecek, Freshman



My holiday wish is that every day could be Valentine's Day!

—Georgia Korkokios, Junior



My wish is that for the holidays, everybody has a place to go to or someone they can go to.

—Ashley Alawi, Freshman



My wish is for a different President of the United States.

—Migfangel Achecar



I wish that all the troops could come home from Iraq safely. That would be a perfect holiday.

—Kristin Mark, Sophomore



My wish would be to go back in time. There are so many things I wish I could redo or relive, and I know that will never happen.

—Melissa Quercia, Senior

Holiday Festival Helps Ring in Season

By Allison Putre

The leaves have fallen, the winds seem unusually cruel, memories of sunbathing on the benches of the mall have faded to a distant recollection. Winter has come to St. Joseph's and the term races towards completion.

But there are, amongst the early hours of darkness, glimmers of light on campus, and those lights take the form of the activities that round out the semester.

One of these activities is the much-anticipated Holiday Festival. The Holiday Festival is a series of coordinated events that is part of a campus-wide celebration of the season.

Both students and faculty are participants in the variety of activities that make up the Holiday Festival.

On December 8 during Common Hour, members of the Brooklyn Philharmonic Chorus will be performing in the auditorium, courtesy of the St. Joseph's

College Council for the Arts.

There will also be an encore performance on Saturday, December 11 at noon.

During the Common Hour performance, there will be a special raffle conducted in the Student Lounge organized by the Campus Activities Board.

For the raffle, every club at St. Joseph's makes a unique basket containing gifts and treats such as gift cards to stores at the mall and places like Old Navy, Applebee's and even tickets to Broadway shows.

Each basket contains items that reflect the theme of the club that makes them. Of course, students and faculty members can buy as many raffle tickets as they like in order to win a particular basket.

Refreshments will be served throughout the day in the auditorium and lounges.

"Every year, the Holiday Festival is something that helps get people into the spirit of

Christmas," said Jaime Vacca, Assistant to the Director of Student Activities. "It is also a really nice way to end the semester," she added.

Another part of the Holiday Festival will be the decorating of the front hallway of Tuohy Hall. There will be a Christmas tree that is set up each year and a special tree lighting ceremony that takes place for the children of the Dillon Center.

There is also the much-expected visit from Santa Claus who reads stories to the children while decked out in his red and white suit.

Christmas carols will also be sung during the tree-lighting ceremony to help keep the spirits and joy of the occasion running high.

All in all, there will be plenty of activities to remind the St. Joseph's community that the holiday season is upon us and it is an important part of campus life.

PAWS Works for Animal Rights

By Christina Ament and Kristina Stumpf

Stray cats struggle to find food. Dogs are abused in their own homes. Animals in shelters are regularly euthanized if not adopted in a brief period of time, animals in the wild are exploited and driven from their natural habitats.

Of all the clubs at St. Joseph's, only one seeks to address the issues of animal abuse and exploitation: P.A.W.S., the Pet and Wildlife Society.

The founder and president of the club is junior Rosa Ortiz, who says that the avowed goal of the club is "to protect the rights and interests of both domestic and wild animals."

Although this is the first year that the club has been in existence at St. Joe's, many important events are already on the club's schedule.

The club has had several bake sales to raise money for animal shelters. There was a pet food drive in November to obtain food for homeless pets, and there was an Adopt-a-Pet Day.

On Adopt-a-Pet Day, a speaker from an animal rights activist organization came to inform students about the conditions that some animals are forced to suffer.

Also on Adopt-a-Pet Day, the club sold pet-related items to raise funds for animals in shelters.

Ms. Ortiz hopes that the club will have the effect of raising awareness amongst St. Joseph's students.

The Moderator of PAWS is Professor Barbara Turoff who stands firmly behind the goals and ideals of the group: "I feel that animals deserve our protection and help and I'm glad to see

that idea promoted."

"I hope that the students will become more aware about the rights and issues affecting animals. For example, being aware of the under-budgeting of animal shelters," she said.

Ms. Ortiz also hopes that the club can coordinate activities with the community.

She believes that PAWS will "bring people and animals together, living in cooperation and harmony."

Club members are fully committed to the goals of the club. "The thought that animals are used by cosmetic companies in cruel experiments," said freshman Svetlana Medvedeva, "is utterly repugnant. These animals need our help—not our experimentation."

The inspiration for the club came last year when Ms. Ortiz went on a class trip to Philadelphia and attended a meeting about animal rights. From that point on, she was dedicated herself to starting the club and helping the unfortunate creatures that society seems to ignore.

"I began with the ultimate goal of helping to create a world where people and animals can live together in harmony and cooperation—to be free from the exploitation and destruction of animals so we can be with each other," says Ms. Ortiz.

"With luck and effort, the activities that we have planned for the club will be successful," she said.

She invites all interested students on campus to attend PAWS meetings which are held every other Thursday in the Red Room of Tuohy Hall.

College Knowledge

Back again with more general interest questions to give your brain a workout! How many can you answer? Come to Room 607 of St. Angela Hall to find out how smart you are!

1. Who wore #7 on the Yankees directly before Mickey Mantle?
2. This film composer scored such films as *E.T.*, *Jaws*, *Superman*, *Schindler's List*, *Indiana Jones* and of course, *Star Wars*. Name him.
3. What does the Beaufort Scale measure?
4. Three Arthurian Knights found the Holy Grail: Sir Galahad, Sir Percival, name the third.
5. "High School Cadets," "Hands Across the Sea," "Manhattan Beach." Name the composer of these American marches.
6. Rachel Ray, Ina Garten, Alton Brown. What do they all have in common?
7. What is the deadliest snake on the planet? Hint: *not* the King Cobra! Another hint: It's only found in Australia.
8. Who wrote the medieval allegory, *Piers Plowman*?
9. Their first names are Gutzen and Lincoln. What is the family name of these sculptors of Mt. Rushmore?
10. Who was the last Federalist candidate for President of the United States?
11. What is the softest mineral on the Mohs Scale?
12. What were the RMS Britannic and RMS Olympic?
13. Who were Caliope, Clio, Terpsichore, Urania, Melpomene, Urania, Erato, Euterpe, Polyhymnia?
14. He painted such works as "Guernica" and "The Charnel House." Name him.
15. Who was Pharaoh at the time of the Exodus?

A Football League for St. Joe's?

By Svetlana Medvedeva

Take one football fanatic and former high school player, 26 willing male students, and 1 cooperative athletic director and what do you have? Possibly, a football league for St. Joseph's College.

For sophomore and biology major Gracia Gustave, football is a hobby, a lifelong interest—a way of life. He would like to see it become part of campus life at St. Joe's.

The former Bishop Ford High School player notes that at a school like St. Joe's, which is predominantly female, there are few outlets for males in sports.

Apparently, other students feel the same way. At the first organizational meeting for the fledgling activity held on October 20, 15 of the 26 students who signed a letter of interest showed up.

"I think we had a good turnout," said Gustave, "and I know there are more students who could not make the meeting who are interested," he added.

Other students who expressed strong interest in starting a football league were Stephen Vasquez, Chris Cosme, Alex Podusliko, Charly Gabiton and Dewell Bueso.

Athletic Director Frank Carbone is assisting in Gustave's efforts to bring football to St. Joseph's by trying to find a playing venue and by handling other organizational matters.

One possible location for a playing field is Fort Greene Park. Another could be the Parade Grounds near Prospect Park.

Gustave foresees a football league beginning sometime in the second semester. "First term is really almost



Football Advocate Gracia Gustave

over now, and it will take time to get this really organized so we can begin," he said.

It has not been decided yet what type of football will be played. Fielding 11 man teams is almost out of the question because of the small male population of the school.

It is, however, possible to play 8 man or 6 man football, depending on exactly how many male students finally commit to the league.

Also to be determined is whether the football league will play touch, flag, or tackle, though the latter is probably unlikely because of the lack of equipment and insurance restrictions.

Yet another possibility is a "Powder Puff League" where girls form the teams and the males serve as coaches. This is extremely popular on the university level in schools with large Greek systems. For more information, contact Gracia Gustave at smoothog58@aol.com.

Performing Community Works to Fight AIDS

Chapel Players Join Actors Equity in Struggle for Cure and Treatment

By Adam Mace

An estimated 37.8 million people in the world have it. Out of that, about 4.73 million people contracted it just last year. It claimed the lives of 2.9 million people last year alone—and 20 million since 1981. It is the scourge of the last century and the current century as well. It is AIDS.

The Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is a very large reality in modern life. So many people worldwide have the dreaded disease for which there is no cure.

But what must life be like for someone who has it? What kind of support is there for a person trying to live in this world while infected with the deadly virus?

That is where Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS enters the stage.

Equity Fights AIDS was founded in October of 1987 by the Council of Actors' Equity Association. Money was raised through the efforts of many Equity theater companies across the United States.

Broadway Cares was founded in February of 1988 by members of The Producers' Group. Similarly to EFA, money was raised by TPG and sent to the Actors' Fund AIDS Initiative. Both groups merged in May of 1992 as a non-profit organization in fighting the war against AIDS.

BC/EFA's mission statement is very simple: to ensure direct support to the infected, provide assistance to organizations that serve others affected by AIDS and

HIV, to promote awareness about AIDS and to provide funds to fulfill these goals.

Moreover, there is a clear connection between the groups activities and St. Joseph's College. Jaime Vacca, Assistant to the Director of Student Services and the Moderator of the Chapel Players, has been an active BC/EFA activist for several years. In 2002, with a general consensus from the students, the SJC workshop was presented.

This collection of several short plays was written and directed by then president and now Chapel Players director, Tom Hoefner. All proceeds went to BC/EFA.

The workshop provides a combination of entertainment with something serious. But SJC activities benefitting this program do not end there. "The whole college community should get involved by coming to the workshop and other events sponsored by the Council of the Arts," said Ms. Vacca.

Whereas Ms. Vacca works on the local level, Mr. Joseph Norton, a producer of special projects at BC/EFA, has been working on the larger level for the past 7 1/2 years.

Mr. Norton has lost both friends and family to AIDS and this has driven his efforts on behalf of others who suffer with it.

"What is so great about BC/EFA is that it is a funding non-profit organization. It puts all its money into care services and food banks. Furthermore, it brings entertainers nationwide to local areas to promote

awareness. We put benefits together to help the cause," he said.

Unfortunately, according to Mr. Norton, AIDS awareness is declining. "The reason for this," he said, "is that people aren't dying as quickly anymore. That sounds rather morbid, but it's true."

The prolonged longevity of AIDS sufferers is attributable to advances in the medical community. "People are beginning to live longer thanks to treatments developed in the ever changing medical world," he said.

Mr. Norton has expressed approval with what SJC is doing with their workshops. "People in college and even high school are becoming socially active...they need to learn to be socially safe also. An educated socially active people will lead to a much safer society," he said. One of the keys to establishing this safer society is by being unafraid of discussing socially important issues such as AIDS. "Be careful, protect yourself and each other. Get educated about this life-threatening disease that can be avoided if you are aware of how to protect yourself," said Ms. Vacca.

Though AIDS is a part of the life of every American, indeed, every citizen of the world, cures, solutions, treatments may be right at hand. It will take money, effort, and awareness to finally defeat the disease.

And, as BC/EFA emphasizes, "What we do together makes a difference."

SJC Visits Brooklyn – The Musical

By Adam Mace

Only infrequently can audiences catch a musical when it has just gone up on the boards and brings with it its freshness and initial energy. Most people have to wait to get tickets until after the show has exhausted its pre-sale and they become available.

Not so with *Brooklyn: The Musical*. Thursday, November 11th, saw a group of students, faculty and staff members from St. Joseph's attend a performance of *Brooklyn: The Musical*, a show that had only recently opened.

The reviews had been strong; the show had been hailed as "The American Musical," but it was time for the St. Joseph's contingent to make its own judgement about the show's merits.

The *mise en scene* of the show is, naturally enough—the streets of Brooklyn, New York. Even before the houselights fully dim, the small cast of five have taken the stage.

The audience sees that they are homeless types, each one trying to earn a coin or two by breaking the fourth wall and telling their 'fairy tale' directly to the audience.

It is a tale of a fatherless Parisian child who tries to find her father in his birthplace—Brooklyn.

Brooklyn (the name of the character) is played by Eden

Espinosa. Though she makes it big in New York City, she still yearns to find her father so that he can finish the 'unfinished lullaby' that he wrote and that her mother used to sing to her as a baby.

Does she find her father? Does he finish his lullaby? The answers to those questions can be obtained by purchasing a ticket and viewing the entire show.

The reaction from the St. Joseph's viewers was mixed. "It was good but it really needed an intermission. Plus, I think they should have waited for the house lights to completely be out before they got on stage," said UA vice-president Christina Traverson.

On the other hand, the reaction of CAB Publicity Director Diana Harvey was much more positive.

"I thought it was different from other musicals. It was out of the ordinary and that's what made it so great," she said.

There are natural comparisons to be made between *Brooklyn: The Musical* and another popular show about the semi-downtrodden, the late Jonathan Larson's rock opera, *Rent*, which opened in 1996. Both shows only have one set and numerous hand props are brought out by cast members during the course of the action.

Both shows required some imagination to fill in the blanks in the minimalist set.

"The music and singing were fantastic," said CAB Financial Coordinator Natalie Fascianella. "Eden Espinosa was simply unbelievable," she added.

Ms. Espinosa seems to have that rare quality that makes stars from newcomers as it did to a youthful Julie Andrews and Barbra Streisand: a voice with an astonishing range and duration.

One audience member was overheard asking during a vocal fermata, "Is she really still holding that note?" Indeed, she was.

Only a year ago, Ms. Espinosa was understudying the role of Elphaba in another Broadway hit, *Wicked*. Shortly thereafter, she found herself in the role of Nessarose, Elphaba's sister.

Even if *Brooklyn: The Musical* does poorly at the box office, it is not too great a stretch of the imagination to believe that canny producers will jump at the chance to place Eden Espinosa in other starring vehicles on Broadway.

Once the Tony Award nominations are announced, it is very possible that both Eden Espinosa and *Brooklyn: The Musical* will be at the top of the list.



Adam Mace and Jaime Vacca Show Off their Brooklyn T-Shirts

ST. JOSEPH'S SPORTS



Sports Talk

By Adam Mace

JUST ONE MORE YANKEE POST MORTEM

By this time, every sports writer in captivity has conducted their own personal postmortem on what happened to the Yankees in the ALCS. So why should I be any different?

Giving credit where credit is due, yes the loathsome Red Sox won fair and square—8 games in a row, in fact.

This, however, does not diminish the fact that the Yankee collapse—three outs away from a sweep—will exist in sports annals as possibly the greatest collapse of all time, rivaled only by the same collapse of the Red Sox in the 1978 season when they blew a 14 game lead.

So what happened? It's too easy to simply say that "The Sox just wanted it more." That is patent nonsense. No, there has to be some other root cause behind the Yankees' failure to close the deal and return to the World Series. Can you spell P-I-T-C-H-I-N-G?

The fact that the Yankees got as far as they did with the staff they had is perhaps the biggest miracle of the 2004 season.

General Manager Brian Cashman cobbled together a pitching staff made up of has-beens and never-were-beens. Kevin Brown? Two steps away from Social Security? John Lieber? A number four or five starter at best. Esteban Louiza? Heaven help us! Where exactly would the Yankees have been without the semi-geriatric El Duque, who basically saved their bacon down the stretch?

I can't say too much about the bullpen. In fact, you can't say *anything* about it, at least the middle relief corps. Felix Heredia? Even Paul Quantrell seemed to outlive his usefulness by mid-season. Tom Gordon? Didn't you find yourself holding your breath whenever he came in during the 8th inning?

Even the peerless Mariano Rivera—he proved in the World Series that he was no longer the 'Sandman.' And in the playoffs? Twice he blew 9th inning leads. Once, he was the closer of closers. That was then—this is now.

Even the hitting was at best erratic. Despite the Saturday night massacre in which they scored 19 runs, the Yankee bats were not fear-inspiring. So many men left on base, so little real clutch hitting.

No doubt mistakes were made on the bench as well. Why in the

world did Joe Torre have Tom Gordon pitch to David Ortiz? Ortiz was killing the Yankees with almost every at bat. The lead run was already in scoring position. Ortiz on base meant nothing.

Torre should have pulled a Barry Bonds and walked him—and had Gordon pitch to someone else. But no. Gordon pitched to Ortiz, and as Michael Kay would say, "See ya!"

It was all downhill from that point on. You just had the feeling that even though it was 3-1 in games, the Yankees would not recover, and that their bats would not come to life again.

Another mistake Torre made goes along with the "All's fair in love and baseball" school of thought. With Curt Schilling nursing a very bad ankle, why didn't Torre have his speedier runners bunt on him at every opportunity? Surely they could have beaten out bunts and gotten men on base.

So it's over, the curse is over, the season is over, Yankee dominance of the American League might very well be over.

Where do they go from here? They *must* make the hated Pedro Martinez part of their anemic rotation for 2005. He is the only real quality starter out there—but the Yankees are just as apt to go after a nearly 40 year old Randy Johnson—for what? At most, two more seasons?

Eric Milton already had his shot with the Yankees—and they will, no doubt, woo him as well. Who else can pitch for them—Tanyon Sturtze?

If Mike Mussina doesn't regain his pre-2004 form, 2005 could be a dreadfully long year for the erstwhile Bronx Bombers.

Carlos Beltran? Yes, he's a great hitter—but on paper, the Yankees have lots of hitting. On paper. In reality, John Olerud didn't hit his weight after the first week the Yankees got him, Kenny Lofton's bat was AWOL all year, Bernie Williams never recovered from appendix surgery—and A-Rod, well, except for a few really big hits, A-Rod was good at hitting home runs when the Yankees were ahead 9-3.

For Yankee fans, the season has no pluses. Unless it culminates in a Ring Ceremony, it's a failure. They will have to live with that all winter.

For the Red Sox, now it's their turn to party.

Conference Title to Lady Bear Volleyballers

By Christine Ament

Champions! No other word sounds as sweet to an athlete—and to the girls of the Women's Volleyball team, it is especially meaningful as they made school history by winning their first championship.

The Lady Bears are the Hudson Valley Women's Athletic Conference Volleyball champs for the first time in the history of St. Joseph's College.

The atmosphere in the gymnasium of SUNY Purchase was palpable as it came down to the last point that the Lady Bears needed to lock up the title. The match had already lasted over 2 1/2 hours and had run to three sets.

Hearts raced, blood pumped. Players on both sides were pictures of concentration—totally focused on the serve.

Kathleen O'Neill—"The Troll" to her teammates—served the ball into Pratt Institute's court. A Pratt player bumped the ball to the setter, who accidentally set the ball over the net.

Awaiting an opportunity to close the deal was Jeanne (CJ) Kavanaugh, who spiked the ball.

She made her approach, extended her arm, and hit the ball with the palm of her right hand.

Pratt could not return the shot and it hit the floor bringing the St. Joe's bench and the crowd to its feet.

It was over—and the title belonged to St. Joe's. The exultant coaches knew that their squad had just made

school history and they shared the moment with the players.

The two seniors on the team, Lisa Hourigan and Kathleen O'Neill, were especially excited and proud.

"We have been building towards this moment for four years. I am so glad that we are leaving as champions," said Hourigan.

And yet, there was a note of sorrow tempering the joy of victory. The seniors had played their last game and their teammates were going to sorely miss their experience and leadership.

"I'm going to miss the seniors who were both great players and great personalities," said Marzena Stadnicka.

Assistant Coach Mario Tang said, "I have coached both these girls for the last eight years going back to their high school volleyball careers. I am really going to miss them. They are the heart and soul of the team and they represented the school and me as well."

The key word for the evening was *pride*. As Coach Tang noted, "I will always be proud of these girls, no matter what they do in life."

The task before head coach Michael Schoeber will now be to fill the two gaps left by the graduation of the seniors.

Specifically, Assistant Coach Sylwia Parzych noted that the team needs "another setter be-

cause Kathleen was our only one. We also need another outside hitter because Lisa is leaving. We have to fill that position."

Coach Schoeber hopes to replace the two seniors with two new freshmen. He will recruit girls for the team by visiting high school volleyball games. He also plans to communicate with 25 girls and take the first five who accept.

Regardless of the loss of the two experienced team members, it could not dampen the spirits of the championship team. Coach Tang said, "The team will still do well even though Kathleen and Lisa are not on the court anymore. There will be voids in our defense and our leadership, but I think the younger girls will step up and we will prevail."

Magdalena Wiecek, who has been playing volleyball for seven years, won MVP in the Rhode Island Tournament and in St. Joseph's Hudson Valley championship.

"All of our players are stars," said Coach Schoeber. "We accomplished what we wanted to do—all of our goals," he added.

The team's overall record was 20-4 on their march to bring the cup to St. Joseph's.

Kathleen O'Neill left her teammates with a closing thought: "Keep up the hard work, build a dynasty, and always remember Lisa and Troll."

Strong Start for Men's Basketball Team

By Christina Ament

Based upon their strong starts, the 2004-2005 season is shaping up to be one of great promise for both the Men's and Women's Basketball teams.

The Men's team is still seeking its first Hudson Valley Conference championship. Standing in the way are Pratt Institute, a team that is returning a majority of last year's squad, the always tough SUNY Purchase team, and a very strong squad from Bard College.

The SJC Bears, still smarting from a bitter overtime loss in last year's conference tournament, are looking for payback.

That payback began with a 73-55 victory over Sarah Lawrence College. Though leading only 33-27 at halftime, the Bears pulled away in the second half, riding the shooting eye of Chris DiStefano, who scored 14 of his 21 points in the second half.

In the victory, T.J. Byrnes and Billy Haufmann each scored 10 points for the Bears and DiStefano and Lukasz Cygan each grabbed 8 rebounds.

The Bears also beat up on Webb Institute, winning by a margin of 20

points, 72-52. Billy Haufmann came off the bench to bucket 14 points, and Wayne Warmbier and Shaun Wright notched 9 and 8 points respectively.

The twin victories were paired with dual losses to Hesser College by a score of 96-64 and New Hampshire Technical College by a score of 76-60.

But the team bounced back with a victory over Vermont Technical College in a 74-63 win.

Once again Chris DiStefano led the way with 28 points and Wayne Warmbier was outstanding from 3 point range.

Looking at the overall schedule, the Bears have 7 USCAA members on the slate, including last year's tournament finalist, Williamson Trade School.

Victories over these teams will be essential if the Bears have hopes of returning to the National Tournament.

Even the non-league games pit the Bears against quality-Division III opponents like the College of Mt. St. Vincent and SUNY Utica, Hamilton College, Brooklyn College, CSI, and CCNY.

"The reason for the tough non-league schedule is to make us stronger," states 3rd year Head Coach Joseph Cocozello. "Those are games that every kid should want to play!" he added.

Senior captain T.J. Byrnes, with 13.1 points per game, 3.6 assists and 3.2 steals in 2003-2004 and sophomore guard Mike Donnelly will be looked upon for leadership and to run the show for the Bears.

Junior forward Chris DiStefano will look to improve on his already impressive averages from last season where he put up 16.5 points per game and grabbed 7.5 rebounds per game.

Lukasz Cygan, who was limited to only 5 games last season because of a broken foot, Ayo Andra Deas, and Chris Olaskiewicz will be called upon to do yeomen's work on the boards for the undersized Bears.

Bench strength will be provided by Craig Laquidara and Anthony Leone.

"The contribution of our bench players will dictate how successful we will be this season," said Coach Cocozello.